

NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
June 22, 2015

The Norman Animal Welfare Center Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Multi-Purpose room on the 22nd day of June, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray Street on the 18th of June, 2015. The meeting was also posted on the City of Norman website.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Co-Chairperson Mark Howery called the meeting to order at approximately 6:26 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Co-Chairperson Mark Howery
Jayne Crumpley
Councilman Stephen Tyler Holman
Joe Carter D.V.M
Rebecca Bean

ABSENT:

Ginger Noble, D.V.M.
Jennifer Kidney PhD

OTHER PRESENT:

Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney
Rick Knighton, Assistant City Attorney
John Bowman, Animal Welfare Supervisor
Jim Maisano, Deputy Chief of Police
Darci Poe, Norman Animal Welfare
Kellie Seeds, Norman Animal Welfare

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III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 22, 2015 MINUTES

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any changes to the minutes. Rebecca Bean asked to clarify the statement which she made regarding Friends of Animals of Norman as a rescue. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if it was acceptable to change it to say "if Friends of Animals of Norman were a rescue group...". Rebecca Bean said yes. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any other changes. Dr. Joe Carter motioned to accept the minutes, Jayne Crumply seconded. The motion was carried.

IV. MONTHLY STATISTICS

John Bowman went over the monthly statistics for April and May. John said we have had a surge of animals in May. Chairperson Mark Howery said he appreciates the statistics and are worth going over each month. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any other questions.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if the increase in intakes were due to the new shelter, people more apt to bring animals in. John Bowman said the influx is due to the weather. He said for three months there were no cats brought in then in a week we had 30 cats brought in. Jayne Crumply asked if historically we see an increase when the University classes are over. John Bowman answered that no, we really don't. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if most of the intakes were puppies and kittens. John Bowman said yes.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked when a dog is fostered is it recorded two times or once. John Bowman said the animal is recorded twice, once as a stray brought in then a second time when adopted.

John Bowman explained and went over the kennel outcome for wildlife and the categories. Jayne Crumply asked if the agreement with Wildcare is working well. John Bowman answered yes.

Rebecca Bean asked why a puppy was euthanized. John Bowman answered that the puppy had been run over by a car. Rebecca Bean asked if the puppy had been seen by a veterinarian. John Bowman said it had been seen by the veterinarian. Rebecca Bean asked to please explain the behavior severe and behavior manageable categories. John Bowman goes on to explain the euthanasia categories. Rebecca Bean asked if there were any animals euthanized for heartworm. John Bowman answered yes. Rebecca Bean asked if the shelter reached out to get any help for the animal. John Bowman said no, there were no prospective **[prospective]** adopters for the animal. Rebecca Bean asked if then it was space driven. John Bowman explained when animals are tested for heartworms at the shelter. Rebecca Bean said at the last meeting Friends of Animal of Norman offered to help with heartworm positive animals, why aren't we doing that? Deputy Chief Maisano said he believes at the last meeting this was discussed and Friends of Animals of Norman offered the services for heartworm animals. Deputy Chief Maisano explains the process of the

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possible adoption of a heartworm animal and request for help from Friends of Animals of Norman. Rebecca Bean said Friends of Animals of Norman are here so we can ask them if they would be willing to fund treatment for animals that are not spoken for. Emily Nicholls said they would be more than happy to help in any way they can. Emily Nicholls said Friends of Animals of Norman has helped one dog since the last meeting. Rebecca Bean said if we had a real foster program it would be great for these cases and a great way to raise money. Councilman Stephen Holman said you can't raise money to give to the shelter. Darcie Woodson said Friends of Animals of Norman pays the veterinarian.

Rebecca Bean asked why the two dogs died in the kennel. John Bowman said he does not know more on that. John Bowman said our veterinarian comes in once a week to look at the animal and would notify staff if there is any sign of something wrong. Rebecca Bean said she was glad to know there is a veterinarian checking in.

John Bowman said we have 16 dogs at the shelter that have been there the longest that are free adoptions. Chairperson Mark Howery said he was not aware of the free adoptions but that is great. John Bowman said we are working on an 80% capacity program that will let us know when we are at 80% capacity so we can move dogs faster before we get to 100% capacity. John Bowman said there is also a low cost spay and neuter program that in which **[omit 'that in which' and say 'and' or 'through which']** in the month of April there have been 8 dogs and 8 cats spay[ed] or neutered. John Bowman asked the committee if there was a particular way they would like the report to be broken in to **[into]** categories for the future. Rebecca Bean said species, dogs and cats would be great. She also asked if we could add volunteer hours to the report. John Bowman goes over the program being used for our volunteers, Volgistics. John Bowman also tells everyone about the Shelter Me Photography workshop in July. He said volunteers are not required to go to the workshop but is an option for them and is open to the public. Deputy Chief Maisano said the shelter staff is going to the training so in the future they can train the volunteers.

Chairperson Mark Howery asked if animals were still being taken to Spayway. John Bowman said yes and gave their new location. John said we are taking animals once a week. Chairperson Mark Howery said in April the shelter was caught up, correct? John Bowman answered yes we were but we are behind again. John Bowman said we are at the end of the fiscal year and can start to get caught up again in July.

Rebecca Bean asked how we can get volunteer hours up and how can we streamline the orientation. (Dr. Joe Carter arrived at 6:16pm.) John Bowman explained why orientation and the classes are set up the way they are. Rebecca Bean said she can see why there is a class for grooming but wondered why we can't incorporate dog walking into orientation. John Bowman explains why dog walking is a separate class and goes over what is covered, that **[it]** is more than just walking a dog. Chairperson Mark Howery said the point is well made and it would be nice to have a quicker process. Rebecca Bean said most people say they can't come back for a second class and that volunteers are important to a healthy shelter. Chairperson Mark Howery said maybe some people go to orientation then decide that volunteering is not what they want to do. Rebecca Bean asked if there could be an option for people to stay after

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orientation to attend a dog class. John Bowman said it would depend on staffing. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if there were any other questions.

V. CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Deputy Chief Maisano said there is about a month delay due to the rain. He said the compaction test has been completed and approved. The footers have been poured and are in place. He said the plumbers should get their rough work finished this week and next week they anticipate laying the first layer of bricks for the stem wall so next week they can pour the slab then after that the masonry walls will be coming up. Chairperson Mark Howery asked if we are still hoping for Phase II to be done early winter. Deputy Chief Maisano said we are waiting on an update from the construction company.

VI. CITY ORDINANCE UPDATE

Deputy Chief Maisano presented the city ordinance update.

Attending citizen asked if the foster home has to be registered with the city. Deputy Chief Maisano answered yes.

Deputy Chief Maisano explains the nuisance animal within reason.

Joy with the Norman Transcript said she doesn't know how many times she has called Animal Welfare about a loose dog out on her street and she knows where the dog lives, the owner of the dog waits until she is out and lets her dog out to chase them. She said nothing is ever done. Deputy Chief Maisano said you can file a complaint. Joy asked if the officers can ask to see their city pet license. Deputy Chief Maisano answered yes.

Attending citizen asked how long cans [**can**] an animal stay at the shelter if the owner is sick or in the hospital and has no family to pick it up. Deputy Chief Maisano said an animal welfare officer would be in contact with the owner regarding those circumstances.

Attending citizen asked how many of the officers are CLEET trained. Deputy Chief Maisano answered that it was not required. The officers carry a shot gun and a dart gun only.

Lauren Lackey asked if a person who can't pay the fees to get their dog out could make a payment agreement. Deputy Chief Maisano said arrangements can be made. Lauren Lackey asked why they don't add that to the ordinance. Deputy Chief Maisano said they can look into that.

Attending citizen asked is there a place where fees are listed. Deputy Chief Maisano said they are listed at the city clerk's office.

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Attending citizen said with dogs being stolen a lot lately that three days may not be long enough for an owner to come get their dog or to know the animal is there. Deputy Chief Maisano said three, five, or even seven days may not be long enough. He said generally two to three days owners pick up their animals. Attending citizen said it should stay at five days and is concerned about dogs being disposed of after three days.

Joy with Norman Transcript asked if we scan for microchips and if our scanners read all chips. John Bowman said there are only four companies that make the microchips and our scanners do read all of them.

Lauren Lackey said the OU research lab is now testing on Animals. Deputy Chief Maisano said we do not release animals for research. He said we only release animals to animal welfare groups. He said they have been approached by a group to use the carcasses of animals and we did refuse[semi-colon] however [comma] we have provided carcass to OSU when they worked at the shelter.

Lauren Lackey asked if the ordinances allow animals to go to auction. John Bowman said cows go to auction by state laws. Assistant City Attorney Jeanne Snyder said they will look into that.

Attending citizen asked where the adoption requirements are. John Bowman said the adoption agreement is an internal document.

Attending citizen asked if you know an owner what fines are there. Deputy Chief Maisano said an animal welfare officer will write them a citation. Assistant City Attorney Jeanne Smith the fines can range from \$50-\$750 with possible jail time.

Attending citizen asked if a person could quarantine an animal at the Animal Welfare Center. Deputy Chief Maisano said no, there is no space.

Attending citizen said they noticed the fees for the city pet license were not on the ordinances anymore. Assistant City Attorney Jeanne Smith said she will note that and make sure that is in there.

Lauren Lackey said in 3-403 reads that you can't bring dogs into Norman businesses that serves food or drinks unless the animal is a service animal. Assistant City Attorney Jeanne Snider said she will make note and check on that.

Kim Fairbanks asked aren't all comments supposed to be heard at the end of the meeting.

Lori O'Brian asked if when in court would an Animal Welfare Officer represent the person or be a witness. Deputy Chief Maisano said they could be a witness.

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Deputy Chief Maisano said to please read through the ordinances and email John Bowman any comments or questions. He said he will try to compile them in the next few weeks. John Bowman gave his email address.

Lori O'Brien said they live in rural area and wondered if the new rules apply to dogs at large. Deputy Chief Maisano no, if bit or attacked then those would apply. Lori asked if a dog has destroyed pets in the past would this apply. Deputy Chief Maisano answered yes.

Amy Bradshaw asked if there could be a waiver or acceptance **[exception]** for medical regarding the six month foster ordinance.

Chairperson Mark Howery said he apologizes to the people here for the meeting on being lax and he takes full responsibility for the meeting. Mark said he wanted everyone to know that the committee did not develop these. Deputy Chief Maisano said this is just a presentation and wanted to get comments.

Deputy Chief Maisano said to please email any comments to John Bowman.

Chairperson Mark Howery said he likes the exotics ordinance, the at large and that we are taking away chains and chords, he is pleased to see that. Mark said he does have reservations about changing the stray hold from five days to three days. He said in 2009 that was talked about and he still has the mentality that when he sees that stray hold shortened he thinks the animal will be euthanized. Deputy Chief Maisano said getting animals out quicker is the goal. He said trying to get them out quicker is better for space and disease control.

Jayne Crumple asked when the stray hold starts. John Bowman said it starts the day it comes in. Chairperson Mark Howery said it has a time stamped on it. Rebecca Bean asked why it can't say that the animal can be adopted after three days, not euthanized for five days. John Bowman said the change would be faster for animals to get adopted which mean better numbers. John said the reduction by two days is only for strays. Lauren Lackey asked why we can't do what Rebecca Bean's suggestion. **[what Rebecca Bean suggested]** Deputy Chief Maisano said to please send comments to John Bowmen. Assistant City Attorney Jeanne Smith said that council has final say.

Councilman Stephen Holman said council prefers to hash things **[out]** before the vote. He said our next vote will be late September/ early October. Chairperson Mark Howery said there could be an update on this in the July meeting. Chairperson Mark Howery said if everyone could please have all comments emailed to by July 2nd. Assistant City Attorney said she will meet with Rebecca Bean to go over everything. Rebecca Bean said she has studies **[studied]** the document since she received it and notes on every page. She went over some of the topics she has made notes about.

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Dustin Merritt asked if carrying a fire arm doesn't the officers need **[if carrying a firearm doesn't require officers]** to be CLEET certified. Assistant City Attorney Rick Knighton said Police already can and explains that anyone can protect themselves reasonably, reason is always the factor.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Chairperson Mark Howery explains the guidelines for public comments.

Lauren Lackey said thank you for your agreement with Wildcare. She asked if there could be a smash the gas chamber event. She said city pet license fee for UN altered pets should be higher. She asked if the orientation could be done on video or online. She also said there should be a Facebook Volunteer group page made so the volunteers have easier access for contacts. She asked if we were going to remove old rescues that were 501c3, she said there was one specifically that is not. She said the shelter needs to reach out to Friends of Animals of Norman for heartworm treatment.

Joy from the Norman Transcript wanted clarification of the city pet license renewals and the language. She asked if the \$4 still goes to the veterinarian because the part got wiped out of the ordinance. She asked if there is a lower cost for seniors. She asked if the term other authorized agents meant the veterinarians. She asked if state laws are taken out of city ordinances.

Bill Hickman he **[omit 'he']** said there is nothing in the ordinance regarding the volunteers. He said you should consider adding something to the ordinances. Bill said he is concerned about the power to inspect foster pet homes. He said the organization should inspect the homes.

Darcie Woodson said she was excited about the spay and neuter program and that Friends of Animals of Norman could help spread the awareness. She said Friends of Animals of Norman were happy to help pay for the heartworm treatment for Anna. She said thank you for sending them over to us. She said it was mentioned in increasing the city pet license fee for unaltered animals and would like to see something like that. She said regarding volunteer hours, it is disappointing to only have 37 hours. She hasn't had time to go get retrained. She said it has been said over and over that it is hard to get volunteers to the shelter. She said in 2013/2014 the shelter had a volunteer group but then broke ties with Friends of Animals of Norman to create their own and it was done prematurely. She said she has a friend that went to orientation in January but has not been able to go back for specific training because it is during the week and she works. She said all the classes are during working hours.

Emily Nicholls said she went through orientation but has not been able to get back to go through the cat or dog training. She said there needs to be an option to do orientation and dog class at one time. She said there should be more training on the weekend because lots of people work during the week. She asked when a dog is labeled dangerous if there is a professional dog trainer to consult. She said it would

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be good to consult for a third party. She said she has had foster dogs for six to eight months. She said the low cost spay and neuter is awesome.

Bill Hickman asked where it is noted on the agenda that public comments are limited to three minutes.

Curtis Ensler said [omit 'said'] wondered why previous owner has five days to notify the new owner that the animal is designated as a dangerous animal. He said he thinks that it seems quite a bit on that one. He said you had offered to answer when the shelter would refuse owner surrender.

Amy Tyler said she reads it that fosters could have their homes inspected but wondered if you could have that be if they exceeded the limits. She said she wondered if there was a way to chart the kennels where dogs die in them for the veterinarian to look at to see if there was any coalition. [?] She asked if there was a way to contact the volunteers to see why they aren't coming in for second training. She said there was something said about a \$25 fee for picking up a dead animal and a \$5 disposal fee, is that right. John Bowman said there is a \$5 disposal fee but we if [if we] come to your house to pick it up there is a \$25 in field pick up fee. Amy said if you could specify for however long our [specify for how long you are] going to hold the animal if it is business days because right now it just reads days.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jayne Crumply at 8:28p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Joe Carter, the motion was carried.

ATTEST:

Mark Howery Co-Chairperson

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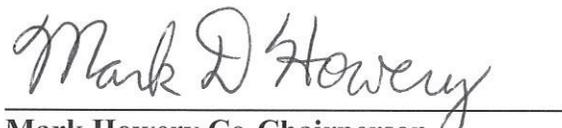
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